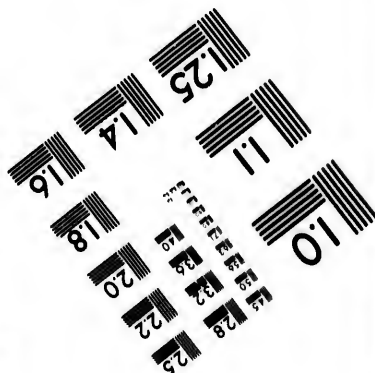
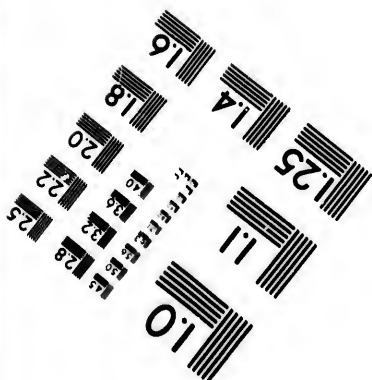
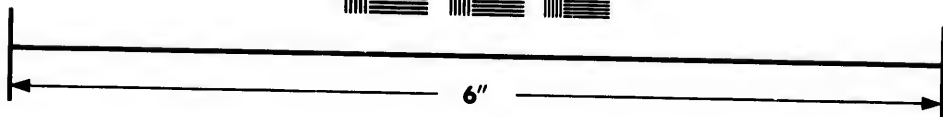
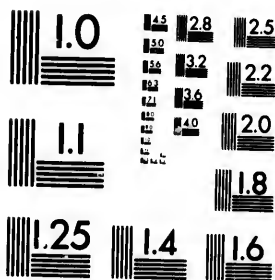


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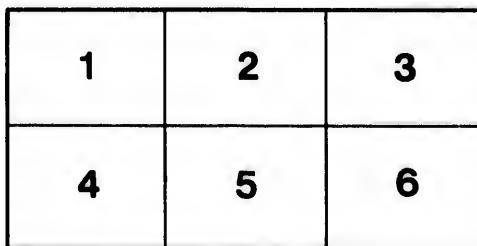
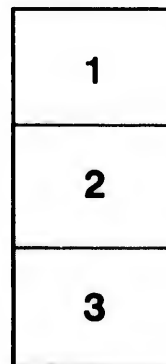
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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF

THE REV. FRANCIS NICOL,

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND;

A CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF HEBREW, CHURCH
HISTORY, AND BIBLICAL CRITICISM,

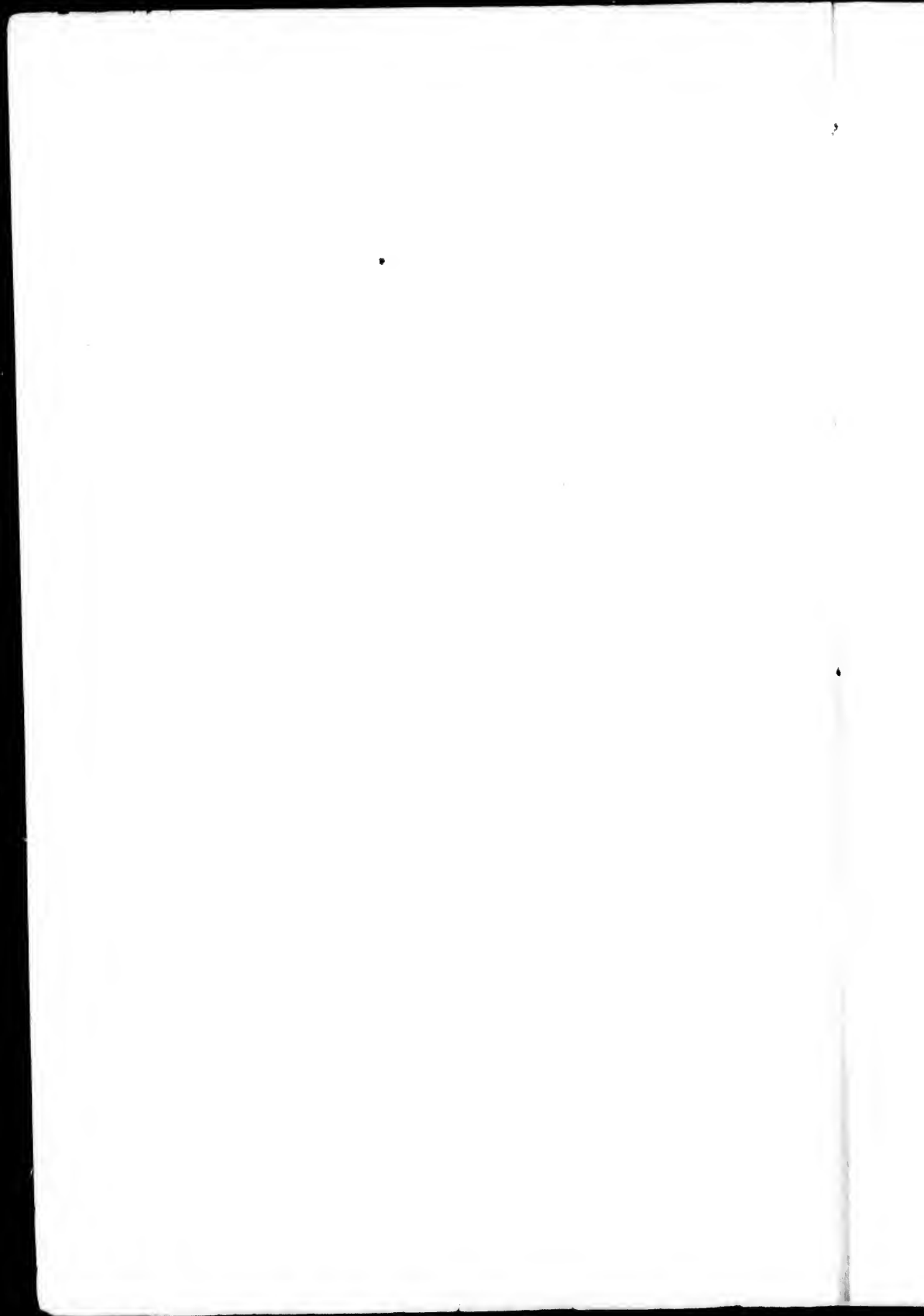
IN

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON, C. W.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, AT HIS STEAM-PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,
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1857.



TESTIMONIALS.

COPY OF CERTIFICATES LAID BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND'S COLONIAL COMMITTEE.—
May 1850.

*From the REV. JAMES BARR, D.D., Minister of St. Enoch's
Parish, Glasgow.*

"The Rev. Francis Nicol, Preacher of the Gospel, has acted for more than a twelve-month in the capacity of Parochial Missionary in the Parish of St. Enoch's, of which I am minister. I have much pleasure in expressing the high satisfaction which he has afforded to myself, to the members of session, and to the congregation at large, by the zeal and ability with which he has discharged the duties of his situation, in preaching when required, in visiting the families of the poor, and in superintending our Sabbath Schools. Mr. Nicol is a young man of very superior talents and acquirements, an excellent, useful, and agreeable preacher, of decided but unobtrusive piety, of pleasing manners and good address, of sound judgment and great prudence, of indefatigable activity and perseverance, and altogether calculated to prove an efficient, acceptable, and successful minister of Christ. He possesses in a remarkable degree a combination of those qualities which are peculiarly requisite in a minister for the British Colonies, and which would not fail to render him a most valuable acquisition to the families of our country, now resident in the Mauritius.*

JAMES BARR,
Minister.

Glasgow, 12th April, 1850."

* While this situation was still open Mr. Nicol was induced by the Colonial Committee to repair immediately to Halifax, where there was urgent need.

From the REV. GEORGE GRAY, D.D., Professor of Oriental Languages, Glasgow University.

“GLASGOW COLLEGE, 12th April, 1850.

I have seldom had so good a Student, alike as to ability, industry, and character, as Mr. Francis Nicol. He was foremost in his classes and took the highest honours, and from my connexion with Ayr of which he is a native, I have personal knowledge of the prudence, piety, and estimable feeling, by which in private he has always been distinguished. He informs me that he is an applicant for the vacancy in the Mauritius, and I feel quite assured that the Colonial Committee could not make an appointment more likely, under the Divine blessing, to prove creditable to our Church, and beneficial to the Presbyterians in that Island.

GEORGE GRAY, D.D.”

From the REV. ALEXANDER HILL, D.D., Professor of Divinity, Glasgow College.

“It was in consequence of the very favorable opinion I entertained of Mr. Nicol's character, attainments and Christian principles, that I recommended him to the Kirk-Session of St. Enoch's, when they were desirous to obtain a Preacher of the Gospel, who would be an efficient missionary. From my occasional residence in Ayr, where Mr. Nicol lived with his parents, I had many opportunities before he entered this Hall of observing his conduct, and of becoming acquainted with every particular in his history, and throughout the whole of his Theological course, I uniformly found him an exemplary Student. He stood high in the estimation of his companions, filling at one time the chair of their Missionary Association; and his exercises in the Hall were not only creditable to his talent, but indicated a mind familiar with the truths of the Gospel, and duly imbued with their vast importance.

I consider the Colonial Committee to have cause for thankfulness, that so excellent a young man as the Rev. Francis Nicol has offered his services unto them ; and I have no doubt, if he is appointed to the situation at present vacant in the Mauritius, he will by the blessing of God, be an untiring, faithful, and efficient labourer in the work of the Lord.

ALEXANDER HILL, D.D.”

From the REV. ROBERT AULD, D.D., *Minister of the first charge, Ayr.*

“ 20th April, 1850.

I have been acquainted with Mr. Francis Nicol for many years. He is a native of Ayr, and was educated at Ayr Academy, and I have good reason to believe he was a distinguished Student, through the whole of his educational career and University curriculum. He passed trials before the Presbytery of Ayr with much approbation, was licensed to preach the Gospel, and repeatedly officiated in the Churches of Ayr, and in neighbouring parishes to the satisfaction of those who heard him. He possesses respectable talents, entertains just sentiments on religious subjects according to the doctrines of the Church of Scotland ; his conduct so far as known to me has been suited to his professional character and views ; and I am persuaded he will be attentive, zealous, and faithful in the discharge of his duties as a Minister of the Gospel, wherever Providence may order his lot.

ROBERT AULD,
Minister of Ayr.”

From the REV. ROBERT JAMIESON, D.D., *Minister of St. Paul's Parish, Glasgow, Editor of Paxton's Eastern Manners and Customs, a contributor to Kitto's Biblical Cyclopaedia, &c.*

“ I have the pleasure of being very well acquainted with Mr. Francis Nicol, Preacher. He was, during his attendance at Col-

lege, connected with my congregation, and was most regular and exemplary in his attendance on the ordinances. Since obtaining license he has for the last year been resident in this city as Missionary in St. Enoch's parish, and has occasionally officiated for me with much acceptance, as I have heard several times from those in whose judgment I have confidence. Mr. Nicol is assiduous in his preparations, conscientious in his views of duty, correct in his habits, and anxious to do good. In private he is intelligent and of good manners, affable in his address, and possessed of great command over his temper. In short, whether I regard his professional acquirements, or his conduct in society, he is a person who has gained the esteem and respect of all who know him, and I am only sorry to think that the Church at home has not already secured the benefit of his pastoral services for one of her unprovided stations.

ROBERT JAMIESON, D.D.

Glasgow, 12th April, 1850."

From the Presbytery of Glasgow.

"GLASGOW, 27th March, 1850.

The Presbytery of Glasgow do hereby certify that Mr. Francis Nicol, Preacher of the Gospel, is most favourably known to them, that he has officiated within their bounds with great fidelity, ability, and success, and that they believe him to be well qualified in every respect to approve himself a most diligent, faithful, and acceptable Minister of the grace of God, wherever Providence may appoint his lot. Attested by

JAMES SMITH, P. C."

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF MR. NICOL AS CANDIDATE FOR THE VACANT CHAIR
OF HEBREW, CHURCH HISTORY, AND BIBLICAL CRITICISM, IN
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON, C. W.

*From the REV. ALEXANDER HILL, D.D., Professor of Divinity,
Glasgow College.*

“THE COLLEGE, GLASGOW, Feby. 25, 1857.

It was in May, 1848, that the Rev. Francis Nicol, now of St. John's, Newfoundland, completed his course of study in this University. I have a distinct recollection of his appearance, the place which he occupied in my class room, the propriety of his behaviour, and the estimation in which he was held by his companions. On looking at my private note book I find that his discourses in the Hall were all mentioned with praise, and his name is recorded as a prize holder in both the Hebrew and the Church History classes. Mr. Nicol continued to reside in Glasgow for a considerable time after he became a Licentiate of the Church of Scotland, and were it necessary I could bear testimony to the zealous and effective manner in which he discharged his duties in the parish with which he was connected. But I refer to this simply with the view of illustrating Mr. Nicol's character. His conscientiousness will lead him to exert himself to the utmost in any situation in which he may be placed, and should he be appointed to the vacant chair in Queen's College, his known attainments and his power of application leave me no room to doubt that its duties will be ably and efficiently performed by him.

ALEXANDER HILL, D.D.,
Professor of Divinity.”

From the REV. ROBERT JAMIESON, D.D., Minister of St. Paul's Parish, Glasgow.

"GLASGOW, 6th March, 1857.

It affords me very great pleasure to need to have an opportunity of testifying to brethren and friends on the other side of the Atlantic, the high opinion that I in common with all who knew him here entertained of Rev. Francis Nicol, St. John's, Newfoundland. Of his talents and acceptability as a preacher, I need not say anything, both because my impressions as to his pulpit appearances are embodied in a testimonial of date, 12th April, 1850, and because there must be multitudes within the range of his present pastoral labours who can bear testimony to his ripened experience and qualifications as a Minister, infinitely better than I am in circumstances to do. But I can with perfect propriety state that his attainments as a scholar were equally high as his character for preaching while he was resident in Scotland. It consists with my personal knowledge, that he distinguished himself at College by his superior acquirements in professional study, more particularly that he was considered by the late Dr. George Gray, Professor of Hebrew in the College of Glasgow, as one of the best Students in his class,—an opinion justified by Mr. Nicol's Academic honours for proficiency in the knowledge of Hebrew,—and also that in the class of Church History, he obtained by the votes of his fellow-students, whose judgment was approved of by the late eminent Dr. Reid, the highest prize for his attainments in historical knowledge. I cannot doubt that one who evinced so decided a bias for professional study in his youth, and who made such marked and successful progress, has been keeping up his literary tastes and habits, and that now Mr. Nicol must be eminently qualified for the office of Professor of Hebrew and Church History in Queen's College. Believing him as I do from my recollections of his professional character, while amongst us, to be well fitted to fill this responsible office, with credit to himself and usefulness to the Church in Canada, I sincerely trust that he may succeed in the object of his honourable ambition.

ROBERT JAMIESON, D.D.,
Minister of St. Paul's Parish, Glasgow."

From the REV. ALLAN McLEAN, Author of a history of Monachism, &c.

"The Rev. Francis Nicol and I were fellow-students in the Hebrew class of the University of Glasgow under Dr. Gray, and in that of Church History under Dr. Reid. I have a distinct remembrance that in each of these classes Mr. Nicol took a very high standing. Indeed he was looked up to by his fellow-students as one most proficient in these departments of study. In the Session 1846-47, his fellow-students in these classes voted him very high prizes, indeed if my memory does not fail me he carried off the first prize both in the Hebrew and Church History class that year.

I had long the pleasure of Mr. Nicol's acquaintance, both before and after the period above referred to, and had always reason to entertain the highest opinion of his character and conduct. He writes me he is now a candidate for the chair of Hebrew and Church History in Queen's College, Upper Canada. I have no doubt that if elected he will fulfil the duties of the office with zeal and ability.

ALLAN McLEAN,
Minister of Calton.

18 Great Hamilton Street,
Glasgow, 26th March, 1857." }

From the REV. JAMES ELDER CUMMING, Minister of East Church Parish, Perth.

"The Rev. Francis Nicol, of St. Johns, Newfoundland, was for some years a fellow-student with me in the University of Glasgow. I had then much intercourse with him as a friend, and had abundant opportunity to know the estimation in which he was held. I well remember that he was regarded as the first Hebrew scholar of his year, that he occupied a prominent position in the Divinity Hall, and that he united great intellectual power to uncommon suavity of manner. Had our lamented professors, Dr. Gray and Dr. Reid, who have left behind them memories so much cherished, been now alive, their testimony would, I am confident, have been

given in such a manner to Mr. Nicol's attainments as to render that of his fellow-students totally unnecessary. All that remains for me to do is to testify what was the feeling towards Mr. Nicol, on the part both of professors and students. I have no means of knowing whether he has since then been increasing his attainments in Hebrew, Biblical criticism, and Church History; but if he has been redeeming the promise of former days in these departments, I cannot doubt that he would now make a professor, able, learned, pains-taking, and conscientious, be very useful to the Church, and much beloved by his students.

JAMES ELDER CUMMING,
Min. of E. C. P., Perth."

From the REV. ROBERT H. SCOTT, Minister of the Parish of Caputh.

"I was intimately acquainted with the Rev. Francis Nicol while we both attended the Theological classes in the Glasgow University, and I have much pleasure in stating how highly he stood in each of these classes. In the Hebrew class he was regarded as the best student, and it would need but little additional study to enable him to teach that language as well as it has hitherto been taught in our Scotch Universities. Diligent application such as he would give if he had the leisure, would soon make him distinguished as a Hebraist and Professor. Nor is it only by his attainments in this language that he is recommended. Having a solid and inquisitive mind, and one well stored with general, but especially with Biblical literature, he is peculiarly adapted for a chair which requires the discussion of questions of exegesis and abstract theology. Not in different to the scholarship of Germany, he is equally alive to the sound and solid Divinity of Britain, and I should expect that the views he would inculcate would have all the freshness of the one and all the scripturalness of the other. I am confident that, if he should be appointed to this situation, he will get into the element in which he is best fitted to move, and will do more for the good of the Church than he can possibly do in his present situation, much as his services there may be prized.

ROBERT H. SCOTT,
Minister of the Parish of Caputh, Scotland.
CAPUTH MANSE, March 20, 1857."

From the REV. WILLIAM P. RORISON, Minister of the Parish of Dalsersf.

"I hereby testify that I have been intimately acquainted for many years with the Rev. Francis Nicol, of St. Johns, Newfoundland. He and I were fellow-students at Glasgow College, and I remember that he was very diligent and successful in his studies. He particularly distinguished himself in the Theological classes, and, indeed, I am of opinion that he was the best Hebrew scholar of his day at College. I believe that his literary acquirements, combined with his gentlemanly manners and kindly disposition render him peculiarly fitted for being a successful teacher of youth.

(Signed) WILLIAM P. RORISON,
Minister of Dalsersf.

MANSE OF DALSERF, April 11, 1857."

From the REV. JOHN C. C. BROWN, Minister of the Parish of Ceres.

"Understanding that the Rev. Francis Nicol is at present a candidate for the vacant chair of Hebrew, Church History, and Biblical criticism in Queen's College, Kingston, Canada, and that, on account of the deaths of Professors Gray and Reid, late of Glasgow University, it will not be in his power to procure those certificates which would have most ministered to the success of his application, I willingly bear testimony to the zeal, diligence, and success with which he prosecuted his studies while in attendance with me at the Divinity Hall. He was by far the most distinguished student of his year, and, being very amiable and judicious as well as talented, he was held in high esteem. In one word, I may say that his scholarship, which is of a high order, his intimate knowledge of the Hebrew language, his extensive theological acquirements, and his studious habits, peculiarly qualify him for such a situation as that to which he at present aspires.

JOHN C. C. BROWN,
Minister of Ceres.

CERES MANSE, FIFESHIRE, April 8, 1857."

From the REV. JOHN M. BROOKE, D.D., Fredericton, New Brunswick, Correspondent, in 1856, to the Synod of Canada.

"The Rev. Francis Nicol, now of St. Johns, Newfoundland, was ordained a Minister of the Gospel by the Presbytery of St. John, of which I am a member, in October, 1851. As usual, on such occasions, he was examined on the Latin and Greek languages, and more particularly on Hebrew, Church History, Biblical criticism and Theology. On all these Branches he acquitted himself in such a manner as to surpass the expectations of the members of Presbytery.

It is right to state that, in his examination on the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, no particular passages were previously assigned to him, as they might then have been supposed to have been got up for the occasion. In both cases he was examined *ad aperturam libri*, and the passages that turned up were not such as were likely to have been familiar to him. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he showed such readiness in reading, translating and analyzing them as convinced the examiners that he had attained to far more than an ordinary proficiency in the Sacred Tongues.

Mr. Nicol's trial discourses were exceedingly well composed, and showed not only that his theological views were sound, but that he possessed that aptness to teach which is so essential, both in the labors of the pulpit and of the professor's chair.

Besides his attainments as a scholar, I consider Mr. Nicol's gentlemanly manners, obliging disposition, and warm heartedness well calculated to render him acceptable in any community.

Upon all these grounds, therefore, I feel myself warranted to recommend him, as possessing, in no ordinary degree, those qualifications that are fitted to enable him to discharge, with credit to himself and advantage to the institution, the duties devolving upon him who may be called to occupy the chair of Oriental Languages, now vacant in Queen's College.

JOHN M. BROOKE, D.D.

From the REV. WILLIAM DONALD, St. Johns, New Brunswick.

"ST. JOHNS, N. B., March 25, 1857.

REV. DEAR SIR,—The Rev. Francis Nicol, of St. Johns, Newfoundland, informs me that he is a candidate for the chair of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism, and Church History, now vacant in Queen's College, Canada, and requests me to state my opinion of his fitness for the discharge of the duties of the Professorship.

You are, no doubt, aware that he was ordained by the Presbytery of St. John, in 1851, before he went to Newfoundland, there being then no Presbytery of Halifax. At that time I had an opportunity of forming an opinion of his professional knowledge, and I have much pleasure in stating that the result of his examinations, both oral and written, was highly creditable to him and most satisfactory to the Presbytery. His discourses were chaste in diction and sound in doctrine, and evinced that he had carefully studied his subjects and clearly brought out the truths involved in them. His examination in Hebrew and Greek manifested his intimate and critical acquaintance with these languages; and in Chronology and Church History he was quite at home.

The testimonials he then produced and others I have since seen show that, during his collegiate courses, he carried off the highest honors, and that his talents, naturally good, were carefully cultivated.

I have thus been led to form a high opinion of his talents and acquirements, and to believe that he is well qualified for the professorship to which he aspires, and, if appointed, that he will maintain the credit of the College, by proving himself fully competent for the honorable discharge of the very important duties of the chair.

Should you deem my testimony of any service, you are at liberty to use this note in whatever way you may think most for his advantage.

I am,

Rev. dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. DONALD.

The REV. WM. SNODGRASS, }
Montreal, C. E." }

*From the REV. JOHN SCOTT, Minister of St. Matthew's Church,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

"The Rev. Francis Nicol, who is a candidate for the vacant chair of the Hebrew, Church History, and Biblical Criticism, in Queen's College, Kingston, was for two years engaged in preaching to the congregations of St. Matthews and St. Andrews, in this city, officiating alternately in the two Churches, every Lord's day.

During his stay here he preached with much acceptance, had Bible classes on week days, which he taught with success, and gave valuable assistance in our Sabbath Schools.

While he was thus discharging the duties of his situation to the satisfaction both of ministers and people, he received and accepted a call to the Church and congregation of St. Andrews, St. Johns, Nfld., his present charge.

I have formed a high opinion of Mr. Nicol's talents, and of his literary and theological acquirements. I have been impressed with the belief that he is a good classical scholar, but the grounds of this belief have proceeded rather from general and incidental remark, in the course of conversation and of free intercourse, than from particular and testing displays of his knowledge, in any of the learned languages. I have it from himself that he is quite at home in the Hebrew, and, therefore, knowing his modesty and conscientiousness, I have no doubt he is so. I can speak more decidedly of his christian worth and exemplary walk, his conduct, so long as I have known him, being uniformly pious, and his private communication, his doctrine and manner of life, all the time he went out and in amongst us, having the commendation of all our christian people.

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to his mild disposition, simple manners, and gentlemanly deportment.

If he shall be chosen to fill the vacant chair in Queen's College, I shall be sanguine of his proving himself an able, diligent, and faithful professor, devoted to the duties of his office, and earnest and solicitous to uphold and elevate the reputation of the Institution.

JOHN SCOTT,
Minister of St. Matthews, Halifax.

MANSE, March 24, 1857."

*From the REV. WM. SNODGRASS, Minister of St. Paul's Church,
Montreal.*

“The Rev. Francis Nicol was well known to me, by his christian character as a man and his distinction as a general scholar, long before I had the pleasure of his personal friendship. He had finished his studies at Glasgow College before I entered the Divinity Hall. I well remember how, year after year, his name was mentioned with great approbation by the various professors under whom he studied, and the frequency with which he was called up in the Common Hall of the University, more especially by the Theological Professors, to receive very high honors from their hands. I have also distinct recollections of the uniform kindness and respect with which my fellow-students, who had better opportunities than myself of knowing him, were accustomed to speak of him, and I have frequently recalled one or two meetings of some of the best students of my day, at which, shortly after his departure for Nova Scotia, his name, literary attainments, and christian virtues, formed a most pleasing and prominent part of our conversation, tinged as it was, with a frequently expressed regret that he had seen it to be his duty to remove from Scotland. Mr. Nicol not only diligently availed himself of all the means of instruction provided in the University, but was also in the habit of attending the best private classes to which he could get convenient access in the city of Glasgow, and I may mention that among others he took advantage, during two winters, of the private classes of a Mr. Spires, a Polish Jew, and teacher of Hebrew.

On this side the Atlantic I have been privileged to become a personal friend of Mr. Nicol, and from my intercourse and correspondence with him, after he had spent several years of active service in the Colonial field, it is with the utmost satisfaction that I have found all the commendation bestowed upon him by professors and students fully warranted, and the favorable expectations they cherished, respecting the probable result upon his character and attainments of continued study and matured experience, by no means miscalculated. When I consider the style and matter of his composition, the amount and quality of his general, and more especially, theological acquirements, his conscientiousness

and piety, and the excellence of his disposition and address, and when I measure all this by my ideas of the qualifications required to fill the vacant chair in Queen's College with credit and success, I am exceedingly confident that Mr. Nicol, if elected, will neither disappoint his friends nor ever occasion the slightest regret to those who may favor him with their suffrages.

WILLIAM SNODGRASS,
Minister of St. Paul's Church.

MANSE OF ST. PAUL'S, Montreal, April 28, 1857."

*From the HON. WM. YOUNG, Her Majesty's Ex-Attorney General
for the Province of Nova Scotia.*

"Having been informed that the Rev. Francis Nicol, of St. Johns, Newfoundland, is a candidate for the chair of Hebrew, Church History, and Biblical Criticism, in Queen's College, Kingston, I have pleasure in certifying that Mr. Nicol, having officiated, about five years ago, for a period of eighteen months or thereabouts as Assistant-Minister of St. Matthew's Church, in Halifax, I had frequent opportunities of meeting him in private society and hearing him in the pulpit, and was most favorably impressed with his acquirements as a scholar, and his manners and character as a clergyman. I should add, however, in justice to all parties, that I express myself in these general terms because I had no opportunity, were I even qualified, to judge of Mr. Nicol's attainments as a Biblical or Hebrew Teacher.

WM. YOUNG,

HALIFAX, March 12, 1857."

*From ANDREW MILROY, Esq., W. S., of Edinburgh, Banker,
Hamilton, C. W.*

"HAMILTON, C. W., March 27, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,—I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to express my opinion of the Rev. Francis Nicol, Minister of St. Andrew's Church, St. Johns, Newfoundland, who is candidate for the

vacant Professorship of Hebrew, Church History and Biblical Criticism, in Queen's College.

Having been Senior Elder of St. Andrew's Kirk-Session from the time of Mr. Nicol's assuming the pastoral charge of the congregation till I left St. Johns, in June last, a period of nearly five years, and having enjoyed numerous opportunities of forming an opinion of his qualifications, I think it due, in justice to him, to state that, in point of clear and forcible exposition of the Scriptures, soundness of theological view, and of the scholarship requisite for success in teaching, he appears to me superior to most men of his standing.

I should consider him a very valuable acquisition to the College, and venture to say that his fitness for the special duties of the Professor's chair is beyond all question.

I remain,

Your obedt. servt.,

ANDREW MILROY.

To the Board of Trustees of Queen's }
College, Kingston." }

